FBIS DAILY REPORT

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18TH ECLA PLENARY SESSION CALLS FOR NEW ECONOMIC ORDER

Peruvian Statement

PY241833 La Paz INFOBOL Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0545 GMT 24 Apr 79 PY

[Text] The 18th period of ECLA plenary sessions began with the attendance of ministers and chiefs of delegations from 23 Latin American countries. Thus the ECLA conference enters its final stage in defining the future guidelines for the economic and social development of Latin American countries.

During the sessions, the ministers and chiefs of delegations will study the conclusions reached and approved by Committees 1 and 2 of ECLA's 18th period of sessions.

The major guidelines will then be established for the strategy that will improve Latin American efforts to eradicate poverty and underdevelopment, achieve a larger regional participation in world trade, establish the basis for industrialization and establish "a new international economic order" in the relations between industrialized and developing countries.

During the sessions of the technical committees, the economic and social development of the region's countries was studied and the conclusion was arrived at that development must be implemented in an overall manner, characterized by the achievement of economic and social goals that will ensure the participation of the population in this process and its benefits.

Latin America was termed a "region in transition," with a large potential for economic development, but also serious problems and basic limitations that stop this potential from being rapidly exploited.

The guidelines which the region must follow during the next decade establish priorities, such as that of achieving the creation of a financial mechanism which will help with the development of agricultural products, such as the creation of "operational offices" ["bolsas"] for basic products which will operate in developed countries, and such as that of adopting strategies for facing the protectionism of industrialized nations.

Within the field of industrialization are: The creation of the infrastructure that will allow a more rational absorption of capital and technology, the expansion of the participation of Latin American manufactured goods in world trade, the study of an improvement in the development of the regional market and the adoption of measures which will regulate foreign investment in order to allow the transfer of technology under appropriate conditions for the national development policies.

Within the financial field, a "strengthening" of the decisions for an increase of the IMF quotas and a new allotment of special Latin American rights with the rest of the world will be sought. The needs of developing countries were insisted upon, taking into account the short and long terms.

The finance and economy minister of Peru, Javier Silva Ruete, indicated that "all the development efforts undertaken by Latin American countries have not been sufficient, and the overall objective of development has not been resolved."

He stressed that despite the efforts and good will of the region's countries, "at the present time, the gap between developing and industrialized countries persists and is getting larger."

He emphasized that Latin America as a whole "is rapidly moving toward underdevelopment and not development," while the growth of the industrialized countries continues to increase. He indicated that Latin America not only has the experience of technology and development, but it also has a financial capability which is not to be despised. These facts, together with the fact that the region has natural resources, can allow it to progress with its own strategy and capabilities.

Silva Ruete stressed that "the strategy of Latin American development must be drafted on the basis of our own capabilities, objectives and realities." He emphasized that "if we do not do this, then within 10 years, when we draw up another balance sheet, we will find that the gap that separates us from the industrialized countries will be even bigger than the present one."

The Peruvian minister indicated to the national press his country's solidarity with Bolivia's maritime cause, and he reiterated Peru's full support for allowing the transit of Bolivian products through the areas of Ilo and Matarani.

Referring to the progress of the Andean Pact, he termed it as positive. He cited the fact that trade in the subregion has been intensified, having increased by $10 million a year without taking into account raw materials.

The Peruvian delegation proposed the creation of the Latin American Monetary Fund during the discussion of the ECLA plenary.

Silva Ruete stressed that the creation of this organization does not imply that our countries will leave the IMF; on the contrary, it will give us a greater negotiating capacity.

The 18th ECLA meeting decided to decentralize UN activities where they are related to the ECLA. The measure is based on the advances that have been achieved with the transfer of functions related to regional projects, specifically regarding the region's resources, from UN headquarters to the commission's General Secretariat.

Despite the antagonism between Latin American and industrialized nations, especially the United States, during its permanent session the committee approved four draft resolutions, two of them with "reservations" made by the industrialized countries.

The draft resolutions that were approved by a general consensus refer to the "charter of Latin American economic and social relations" and "the cooperation between developed countries and developing regions." The two documents that were approved with "reservations" refer to "the protectionism practiced by developed countries" and to the "mechanism for training resources for the development of natural resources," which was objected to by the United States, which noted that there are organizations such as the World Bank and the IDB which have development policies for these sectors.

Argentine, Ecuadorean Views

PY250145 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2015 GMT 24 Apr 79 PY

[By Rene Villegas]

[Text] La Paz, 24 Apr (LATIN)--Argentina and Ecuador today severely criticized the protectionism and discrimination imposed by the developed world on Latin America, which hinder its efforts to achieve a better economic and social standard.

Both positions were heard during the second day of plenary sessions of the 18th conference of the Economic Commission for Latin America [ECLA] being held here.

Fourteen ministers from the area and delegates from 32 nations are attending the conference of the Latin American organization created by the United Nations.

The presentations by Argentina and Ecuador followed one made by Peru, whose economy and finance minister, Javier Silva Ruete, last night requested the creation of a Latin American financial fund to defend regional development, basic products and price stability on the international market.

Ambassador Luis Ipres Corbat, president of the Argentine delegation, stated in his speech that there is an imperative need to maintain and reinforce Latin American unity as a fundamental option to undertake and decide regional courses of action immediately and within a reasonable span of time. He referred to efforts by developing nations to increase and diversify their exports, and stated that these efforts encounter serious obstacles in the protectionist tendencies of industrialized nations.

He pointed out that until recently, industrialized nations encouraged free trade, recently changing that attitude with the implementation of a varied assortment of tariffs that go beyond mere fiscal needs,and the adoption of an increasing number of nontariff restrictions. He added that even worse, a large part of these decidely protectionist measures escape the agreements reached on the subject in various international forums, including even the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

In view of this, he said, Argentina believes that the time has come to develop our own strategy, which should be implemented by a Latin American group or organization. Condemnation of protectionist barriers should be followed by action to achieve their reduction or elimination, considering the interests of the region, he added. At the same time, he discussed the problem of basic products and agreed with other proposals on the need to seek intraregional agreements for price stabilization. He also demanded that Latin America speed up the decision of a code of conduct for transnational companies, whose growing participation seriously concerns the region's nations.

Cuban Position

FL241442 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Cuba presented the joint position taken by Latin America against trade protectionism in facing North American attempts to change a regional project resolution to confront this restrictive practice. The Cuban delegate was designated by the Latin American group to explain the project on Sunday, 29 April, at the experts meeting in Commission No 1, during the 18th session of the Economic Commission for Latin America--ECLA--which is being held in Bolivia. The demand for a new international economic order, in which the discriminatory practices that affect Latin America are eliminated, characterized the ECLA inaugural meeting.

After the Cuban position, which expressed Latin American concern about the capitalist powers preventing the region's products from entering their markets, the North American representative once again made one of her temperamental presentations. The U.S. delegate maintained that Latin America's position is unacceptable and unbalanced because it does not consider protectionism as a worldwide problem, but rather as the exclusive responsibility of certain countries.

Cuba then defended the inviolability of the Latin American project because of its regional nature and labeled as unacceptable the North American proposal that the resolution call on the capitalist powers to resolve their domestic problems which allegedly give way to protectionism, because it would indefinitely postpone the demanded solutions.

The ministerial phase of the meeting began Monday afternoon, 23 April, with the opening at the La Paz municipal theater. Due to health reasons, Bolivian President David Padilla was unable to attend. Foreign Minister Raul Botelho represented the chief executive and read his message at the ceremony, in which President Padilla expressed his determination to strengthen Latin America's unity above ideological and political diversity. In touching on the topic of trade protectionism, the presidential message stated that in face of this practice, our voices of rebellion are raised in unison and take on an attitude of solidarity.

U.S. Objections

PY211449 La Paz INFOBOL Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0520 GMT 21 Apr 79 PY

[Text] The United States, Great Britain and Canada yesterday posed objections to the document prepared by the High-Level Government Experts Committee [Comite de Expertos Gubernamentales de Alto Nivel--CEGAN] for discussion during the 17th session of the Economic Commission for Latin America [ECLA]. The "objections," which were not formal, were made during the meeting of "Committee No 1" during the ECLA event, but they led to a debate which will continue today.

The United States objected to the "tone" of the document, and that position was shared by Great Britain and Canada.

The Venezuelan delegation stated that it expected the industrialized countries to "understand the efforts" made by Latin America in drawing up this document.

The most prominent parts of the document condemn the protectionist measures taken by some industrialized countries, particularly by the United States, harming the export of certain Latin American products. It also calls for a study of the conduct of transnational enterprises.

SPAIN ASKS BOLIVIAN SUPPORT FOR ECLA MEMBERSHIP

PY191838 Paris AFP in Spanish 1546 GMT 19 Apr 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 19 Apr (AFP)--Spanish King Juan Carlos I held a telephone conversation last night with Bolivian President Gen David Padilla Arancibia to ask him for his support for Spain to join the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), it was reported here today. Padilla promised Bolivian support and there is a consensus at the meeting to the effect that Spain will become the 33d member country of ECLA and the fourth European country, in addition to France, Great Britain and the Netherlands.

25TH UNION LEADER PLACED UNDER ARREST

PY242346 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2027 GMT 24 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Apr (NA)--According to reports from union circles, the secretary general of the Insurance Workers Union, Jose Ramon Valle, today turned himself in to authorities and was arrested, like his colleagues in the leadership of the committee. Valle, who was out of town last night when the other leaders were arrested, returned immediately to the capital when he heard about this and presented himself to the authorities.

Habeas Corpus Move

PY241482 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1355 GMT 24 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 24 Apr (NA)--Union sources indicated this morning that a habeas corpus plea on behalf of 24 leaders of the Committee of 25 who were arrested last night, either leaving the National Labor Relations Directorate or in a nearby restaurant, was presented to the federal court and to the 16 regular courts.

The union sources indicated that the document requested that the judges send official letters to the federal police and security organizations to report whether they are holding the union leaders, since these persons were taken in automobiles without police identification by armed persons dressed in civilian clothes.

Union spokesmen said this morning that the union leaders are under arrest in the facilities of the "union section" division of the security department of the federal police, but this was not officially confirmed by the police. Despite this, unofficial police spokesmen confirmed the arrests and said they were not aware of the charges against the union leaders or whether they would be prosecuted for violating Law No 21,400, which provides sentences of 3-10 years for those who publicly call for a strike.

CNT on Arrests

PY242239 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1715 GMT 24 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Apr (NA)--The National Labor Commission [CNT] declared today that it believes "the measure of protest" called by the Committee of 25 is "not valid because it was adopted without the unity of the labor movement." At a meeting this morning the CNT also decided to send telegrams to the president, Lt Gen Jorge Rafael Videla, and the labor and interior ministers, generals Llamil Reston and Albano Harguindeguy, respectively, urgently requesting the release of all the leaders of the Committee of 25 who were detained yesterday. The telegram sent to General Reston also asks for an urgent meeting with him, and another message was sent to the archbishop of Buenos Aires, Cardinal Juan Carlos Aramburu, requesting his mediation to facilitate the release of the union leaders. The CNT asked for an urgent meeting with the members of the military committee "in order to strengthen national unity through the general welfare recommended in the national Constitution as its fundamental goal.

At the end of the meeting, the CNT issued a communique which states the following in its principal passages: "The CNT expresses its concern regarding the day of protest recently announced by the Committee of 25 in view of the possibility that the legitimate dissatisfaction of Argentine workers might be endangered during a confrontation of forces which does not demonstrate the unanimity of that popular feeling."

"Adopting the measure unilaterally and hurriedly, pretending to use workers to dissolve the local bodies that make up the Committee of 25, and calling on all national sectors to support this without first having achieved unity of the labor movement invalidates the summons. We fear that the future of the Argentine labor movement is being precipitously endangered."

Demand for Release

PY242046 Paris AFP in Spanish 1845 GMT 24 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 24 Apr (AFP)--The Committee of 25 decided today to appoint a new board of leaders in view of the detention last night of 24 delegates who made up its former leadership. In addition to requesting the immediate release of its leaders now under arrest, the organization confirmed all the points of its declaration of Saturday in which it called on all workers to hold a national day of protest, that is, a 24-hour strike, on Friday.

The Committee of 25 sent notes to international organizations with which it is affiliated. In these messages it requests foreign intercession to put an end to the detention of the Argentine leaders. Union sources have also reported that, among other actions, the Latin American Workers Central will ask for intercession by Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins in the situation. They also reported that the provisional committee will carry out its functions until the arrested leaders are released.

More Support

PY242335 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2022 GMT 24 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 24 Apr (LATIN)--Union organizations and political parties today issued statements supporting the 24 leaders arrested last night for calling a general strike on Friday to demand wage improvements and union requests.

The Intransigent Party, a center-left political group, today stated that workers should have one single democratic and free organization that would allow them to defend their rights, and expressed its total support for their just demands.

Statements from other political parties concerning the conflict over Friday's illegal strike and the arrest of the union leaders are expected during the next few hours.

Meanwhile, the courts reported that as of midafternoon they had not received any official information as to the whereabouts of the union leaders, for whom a habeas corpus plea was submitted. Reliable sources indicated that they are being held at security facilities of the federal police.

Justicialist Request

PY242350 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2039 GMT 24 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Apr (NA)--The vice president of the National Justicialist Council, Deolindo Felipe Bittel, sent a telegram today to the president requesting the "immediate release" of the arrested union leaders. Bittel also sent a telegram to the archbishop of Buenos Aires, Cardinal Juan Carlos Aramburu, asking for his intervention.

In turn, the "Emergency Committee of 25" today reported the detention of union leader Alfonso Millan today in Mar del Plata. According to a report, the arrest was made when Millan was in that resort city presiding over a congress of glass industry workers.

Three More Detentions

PY250057 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2305 GMT 24 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 24 Apr (NA)--Union sources report that at least three more leaders of the Committee of 25 were detained in the past few hours.

Union sources also report that the following union leaders have also been detained by the police in separate actions: Juan Rachini (soda water workers), Francisco Loiacono (tobacco workers), and Hugo Barrionuevo (noodle makers).

Release of Seven

PY251243 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1235 GMT 25 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Apr (NA)--According to union sources, some of the union leaders arrested the night before last and yesterday have been released in the past few hours. According to the report, seven union leaders were released last night, among them Horacio Alonso, secretary general of court employees.

ENERGY PRODUCTION INCREASES, IMPORTS DROP

PY250021 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2215 GMT 23 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 23 Apr (TELAM)--The Energy Secretariat reported today that energy production increased during the first third of the year. Petroleum and coal production increased 6.7 and 162.9 percent, respectively, while gas injection increased by 5.7 percent and the electric power generation by 19.4 percent.

Crude oil imports dropped by 70.4 percent and the corresponding expenditure of foreign currency also dropped by 63.4 percent. Petroleum production during the period reached 6,663,500 cubic meters, against a production of 6,244,300 cubic meters during the same period last year.

Petroleum imports dropped during the period by 70.4 percent. Some 251,300 cubic meters were imported this year as compared to the 849,800 cubic meters last year. Expenditures of foreign currency dropped from $75,476,200 to $27,634,500--that is, 63.4 percent less.

PARAGUAY SAID DIVERTING PILCOMAYO RIVER

PY190350 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0024 GMT 19 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Salta, Argentina, 18 Apr (LATIN)--For 5 or 6 months Paraguay has been diverting the course of the Pilcomayo River, which marks the border with Argentina, according to Ernesto Azurmendi, secretary of agricultural affairs of Salta Province, today. He said he would give more details on this information to Carlos Ballester, secretary of national water resources, who arrived here today on an official visit.

Azurmendi noted that in some cases up to 90 percent of the river's volume has been diverted and aerial photographs have been taken that prove this.

The Pilcomayo marks the border of the Argentine provinces of Salta and Formosa along a short stretch of territory with Bolivia and then with Paraguay. The Pilcomayo's course is irregular, and before flowing into the Paraguay River it goes through an area of swamps where its waters divide into two branches. A short time ago Argentina and Paraguay agreed on its exploitation.

DEMONSTRATION STAGED TO PROTEST NUCLEAR PROGRAM

PY240134 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2007 GMT 23 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpts] Sao Paulo, 23 Apr (LATIN)--Hundreds of persons gathered last night near Itanhaema to protest the Brazilian nuclear program.

Senator Evandro Carreira, one of the speakers, stated that the government's project is equivalent to playing with fire. Carreira, who also seeks to prevent the Amazon jungle from being utilized as a source of timber, added that the Brazilian Government is trying to implement a nuclear energy program while its hydroelectric potential has not yet been fully developed.

In addition to Senator Carreira and ecologist Jose Lutzemberg, the demonstration consisted of many ecologists, politicians, scientists and nature lovers, who expressed their opposition to the government's energy program.

PRIVATE TEACHERS IN RIO DE JANEIRO END STRIKE

PY241347 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Apr 79 p 1 PY

[Text] Twenty-five thousand private school teachers of the first and second grades resumed their duties in Rio de Janeiro today after unanimously deciding to end their strike at an assembly held at the Maxwell Club by about 2,000 representatives.

The teachers ended the strike after the regional labor court guaranteed them a 44-percent increase, plus 10 percent for grading examinations, a paid weekly rest, job security for expectant mothers for 60 days after maternity assistance ends and payment of half-salary through December to teachers dismissed without just cause during the school year. The compliance of these concessions, which are "partial" according to the teachers, will be reviewed at an assembly on 12 May.

FREEZING LOANS WILL PREVENT ENTRY OF $800 MILLION

PY241430 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Apr 79 p 1 PY

[Text] Jose Carlos Madeira Serrano, director of the central bank's foreign department, reported yesterday in Brasilia that the freezing of loans for 360 days, which has already been approved by the central bank but which has not been implemented abroad yet, will prevent the entrance of $800 million (19.2 billion cruzeiros) into the country this year. Despite the freeze the central bank director explained that money will enter the country under better conditions than the loans authorized under the "package" [of economic measures], because 50 percent of those loans would be withheld and businessmen would have to shoulder all the burden of the debt. The government's objective is to discourage attracting foreign resources.

BRIEFS

ANGRA DELAY--Furnas President Licinio Seabra reported yesterday that the Angra 2 timetable will be changed in view of the studies underway to improve the facilities in the reactor building. The changes in the schedule will entail a 6-month delay. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Apr 79 p 19 PY]

FERNANDEZ DEPLORES KILLING OF ARMY OFFICER

PY241450 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpts] The firm decision of the Chilean Government to combat terrorism unceasingly and uncompromisingly was announced by Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez in an official declaration issued yesterday afternoon on the tragic death of Lt Luis Francisco Carevich Cubillos. Interior Minister Fernandez noted that the deep sorrow over the death of a young man who was doing his duty should make all Chileans meditate on the seriousness of the deed that led to this tragedy.

The interior minister said: [begin recording] To show weakness in this fight would mean becoming an accomplice of this serious attack against the natural rights of man. But to proceed with maximum energy is the only path compatible with the duty of any government to safeguard effectively the human rights of all citizens.

In view of this, I herewith state the firm decision of the present government to combat, without respite or compromise, this sore of the contemporary world, which today has taken one more innocent victim from our fatherland and the armed forces that guide our destiny. [end recording]

CUBILLOS 'GREATLY PLEASED' AT POPE'S CHOICE

PY250135 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpt] Cardinal Samore's appointment as the pope's official delegate to mediate in the Chilean-Argentine conflict has been received with satisfaction by the Chilean Foreign Ministry. The appointment was announced yesterday by the apostolic nuncios in Santiago and Buenos Aires. The information was conveyed to the Argentine and Chilean ambassadors to the Holy See by Cardinal Cassaroli. Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos has expressed his utmost satisfaction over the choice:

[Begin recording] The decision of the Holy See is very good news. We are greatly pleased, because in addition to the wisdom evidenced during the mission entrusted to him last year, Cardinal Samore has enough background information on the problem, which, we are sure, will help him. [end recording]

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT FAR EAST

PY242339 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpts] The Chilean deputy foreign minister will travel to Japan today. Later he will go to the Philippines to attend an international economic meeting. In Tokyo Enrique Valdez will preside over the annual meeting of Chilean ambassadors in Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

From Tokyo, the deputy minister will go to Manila to participate in the 5th UNCTAD meeting. Valdez will speak at the meeting on 10 May. Aside from Tokyo and Manila, Deputy Minister Valdez will visit Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Djakarta, Bangkok, Hong Kong and Miami.

BELGIUM'S PRINCE ALBERT TO VISIT 13 MAY

PA241921 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpt] Bogota--Prince Albert of Belgium, brother of King Baudouin who rules that republic, will arrive in this country on 13 May on a 3-day official visit to make arrangements to strengthen Belgian-Colombian relations. The report was made by Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas, who called the visit important and said that an increase in trade and financial cooperation will be sought between the two countries.

ANDI PRESIDENT CRITICIZES ECONOMIC POLICY

PA231623 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpts] Fabio Echeverri Correa, president of the National Association of Industrialists [ANDI], has accused the finance minister of carrying out an extremely money-oriented [monetarista] economic policy which is strangling the productive sector. In an extensive statement to the "Grandes Reportajes" Program, Echeverri Correa noted the following:

[Begin Echeverri Correa recording] Unfortunately, I look at the immediate future of the economic sector with concern because, in my opinion, our governments have gradually come to accept the idea that the important thing is figures and not the results of production. We are placing much more value and interest in the fact that the increase in the cost of living is 1, 2, 3 or 5 percent, or if our cost of living is 9 percent, which is quite high, and it may reach 13 percent by the end of the month. This is the serious thing, the thing which concerns the country's economic, political and official sectors. Instead of being concerned about how many firms were created, we should be concerned about how many more could be created. We should be concerned about whether we have advanced in the exploitation of coal or whether we are consuming gasoline prudently and carefully. Through this, we can solve many of the problems we presently face.

I believe that the country's immediate future is worrisome. I believe that the productive sector is strangling because credits are scarce and money is worthless. The government has been handling the economy in an extremely money-oriented manner. [end recording]

GUERRILLA LEADER DIES IN CLASH WITH MILITARY

PA250259 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 April 79 PA

[Excerpts] Bogota--One of Colombia's best known and most important guerrillas, Alfredo Gomez Duque, known as Aldemar, died this afternoon in a bloody clash with military troops in a village on the border of the departments of Santander and Boyaca. Aldemar was believed to be one of the top leaders of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] following the desertion of Fabio Vasquez Castano, who fled abroad.

COAL INDUSTRY TO BE FULLY STRENGTHENED

PA241432 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Apr 79 PA

[Text] As revealed by Mines and Energy Minister Alberto Vasquez Restrepo, Colombia has definitely entered the coal age. The minister insisted that the new situation includes reviewing coal legislation, creating special taxes on that activity [presumably coal mining] and the full strengthening of CARBOCOL [Colombian Coal Enterprise].

CENTRAL BANK TAKES MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN SUCRE

PA211555 Paris AFP in Spanish 1513 GMT 21 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Quito, 21 Apr (AFP)--The Ecuadorean Central Bank has been able to reduce the price of the dollar on the free market by enacting a series of regulations to prevent the rising quotations that set off a rush about 10 days ago. Over a week ago, the dollar was being sold at 29 sucres and last Friday the market closed at 27.50. Central Bank Manager Rodrigo Espinoza has confirmed his decision to normalize the dollar quotations for the sucre in the near future.

Bank Manager Interview

PA211937 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Dr Rodrigo Espinoza, general manager of the Central Bank of Ecuador, has announced that the official price of the U.S. dollar has decreased noticeably in the past few hours, following the measures that the bank of issue implemented to lower the exchange value of the U.S. currency and force exchange houses to significantly reduce their quotations. The Central Bank official has also stated that the economic objectives of the bank are aimed basically at securing better living conditions for lower income Ecuadoreans. Espinoza noted that at this moment the Ecuadorean currency needs no devaluation. [begin recording] As I have said, during the first months of the year demands are higher than supplies, and this pushes foreign exchange prices up. As a result of the talk about dollar prices, there was some financial speculation. This is how I characterize it. Proof of the fact that the speculation was financial in nature is that the [dollar] price has decreased by 1.50 [presumably sucres] in just 8 days.

[Question] Doctor, a local evening newspaper has charged that as a result of this speculation, there were transactions involving millions. Could you give us the official version of the Central Bank and could you tell us if the origin of these transactions has been established?

[Answer] We are investigating. There had been a very large difference in the price quotations between the free exchange market and the free market managed by the Central Bank. As a result, we are carrying out some investigations. Some officials of the Central Bank of Guayaquil are involved. They had been purchasing dollars to sell them in the free exchange market to benefit from the difference. The bank is studying this, and as soon as we have the information, the officials involved will leave the institution, and the bank will take the proper legal measures.

[Question] What will be the economic future of our country when a new government comes to power, considering that it is expected that a new administration will be elected in the very near future?

[Answer] It depends on the economic policies and objectives that will be established. Ecuador is a country that needs correct management of its economic policies, because bad management could have very serious effects on the economy. It all depends on how the economy will be managed in the future.

[Question] Doctor, do you think that a revaluation of the Ecuadorean sucre will be necessary?

[Answer] No. The country's present exchange situation does not require any exchange modifications. As I told you before, we have a $574 million reserve, and we think this is an adequate level. As prices stand now, we have no need for revaluating or devaluating the currency. [end recording]

U.S. POLICY CRITICIZED AT ANTICOMMUNIST MEETING

PY242208 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 24 Apr 79 p 13 PY

[Excerpts] Prof Rafael Rodriguez, secretary general of the Latin American Anticommunist Confederation [CAL], yesterday delivered a harsh attack against U.S. President Jimmy Carter's policy in his report to the WACL [World Anticommunist League] congress. He charged Carter with having withdrawn all military and economic aid from anticommunist governments and with having strengthened Marxist regimes. He also stated his concern over growing communist influence in Panama, Bolivia and Brazil.

The secretary general then defined the strategy of what he called Carter-communism, describing the main moves as follows: Withdrawal of all military and economic aid to anticommunist governments; launching against them by means of press campaigns the stigma of being dictatorships and violators of human rights; strengthening of Marxist regimes which are in fact bloody dictatorships, such as Castro's, or about to become one, such as that of Torrijos; training guerrillas and sending them against their own people, thus provoking the intervention of police and armed forces and getting new pretexts to cry out for human rights; and political and economic encouragement of socialist, social democratic and Christian democratic governments and parties to set them against the anticommunist coalition in the United Nations, the OAS, the Inter-American Security Council and other international organizations, thus dividing our great Hispano-American nation.

He then denounced the communizing process he said is going on in Panama: Torrijos, a self-appointed general and self-appointed chief of government, despite the existence of a president whose name is hardly known to anyone, made a pact with Havana on establishment of a communist government that will get sovereignty over the canal, instead of a nationalist and democratic government.

He further stated that for this purpose hundreds of Cuban advisers at all levels of the Panamanian Government. Torrijos would have ceased to be dictator of Panama if it had not been for the terror system that has been imposed and for the support from President Carter, who, against the will of the American people, extolled him and strengthened him politically and economically in connection with the Canal treaty.

Professor Rodriguez foresees a serious threat to South America: The return of communists to the Bolivian Government, "again disguised as socialists or national revolutionaries." "Paz Estenssoro and Hernan Siles Zuazo, men of the Second International and stained with the blood of thousands of victims 25 years ago, are intensifying their agitation, stimulated by high officials and by churchmen who, in the name of democratic freedom and a change of structure, ar preparing the road for their demagogery."

He believed the situation is becoming more serious, since in Peru the high ranks of the army are infiltrated with communists and that country, together with Panama, is in favor of drawing up a new constitution with socialist trappings. "These are our main concerns in CAL, apart from Brazil, with its opening to the left favored by high officials in Brasilia and the flooding of the country with Marxist literature," he added. He concluded by naming the governments of Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Paraguay as countries that continue to maintain a firm position against communism.

HERRERA ACTS ON REBELLION INDICTMENTS

PA232357 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 23 Apr 79 PA

[Text] President of the Republic Luis Herrera Campins has issued five decrees ordering a stay of proceedings against 20 persons indicted for military [as heard] rebellion. The presidential decrees do not include former guerrilla chiefs Douglas Bravo, (Ejulio) Escalona and Marcos Gomez.

The first decree orders a stay of military proceedings for rebellion against Jose Tomas Pinto Marrero, Jose Luis Velasquez Arrais, Alexis Toledo Castro, Jesus Enrique Pancheco Carreno, Vicente Raquel Salazar, Noel Ramon Flores, Eleazar Lopez, Apolinar Lopez, Ali Lopez Guerra, Osvaldo Antonio Martinez Ancheta, Ramon Laureano Lopez Reos, Roberto Rodriguez Montesinos and Jose Rafael Toro.

In the second decree, the president orders a stay of military proceedings for rebellion and unlawful flight against William Jose Alvarez Blanco. The president's third decree dismisses the charges of armed rebellion and theft in the military trial of Orlando Palma, Alejandro Pereira and Victor Enrique Brizuela. The fourth decree dismisses the charges against Lilia Bolivar and Ernesto Virla Farias who had been indicted for rebellion and attempted murder. The fifth presidential decree states: This cancels the military proceedings for rebellion and possession and handling of explosives against Santiago Jose Marcelino Villar Herrans.

The defense minister is in charge of implementing these decrees.

ECONOMIST WARNS OF POSSIBLE RECESSION

PA250038 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2020 GMT 24 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 24 Apr (EFE)--Socialist Deputy Domingo Felipe Maza Zavala warned today in this capital that Venezuela's economy faces a serious threat of recession if the squandering of resources, trading of influence and government corruption continue. Maza Zavala is chairman of the Chamber of Deputies Standing Committee on Economic Affairs and is considered to be one of the most prominent economic analysts in the country.

"The Venezuelan economy," he said, "is afflicted with the serious problem of low output from the resources and methods used in its [words indistinct] of low production, of decreasing production."

The economist said that a very complex picture is observed particularly in the area of oil: A decline in deposits, inadequate conservation efforts, and high rates of exploitation. Maza Zavala added that these deficiencies in the country's basic industry are due largely to neglect on the part of the former concessionaires, who became indifferent toward exploration and renovation of equipment when they learned that the industry would be nationalized.

Regarding other areas of the economy, Maza Zavala said that, in general, there is a very great dependence on oil income, which has led to a marked tendency toward low production. He said that the problem is not a lack of resources, but rather one of exploitation of existing resources for which a reorganization of certain areas is necessary.

"If this is not corrected," the deputy concluded, "not only will there be an economic recession within a short time, but there will also be a serious crisis in our economy and in all aspects of national life."

ARIAS ATTACKS CANAL TREATIES IMPLEMENTATION

PA242343 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2221 GMT 24 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpts] Panama City, 24 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Former Panamanian President Arnulfo Arias today broke his silence of several months to state that the "implementation" of the Canal treaties "is a fraud against the people" and that it will only serve "to prolong the life of this communistic [comunistoide] regime." In his statement, Panama's most important opposition leader affirms that "the implementation legislation of the Panama Canal treaties is being studied by the U.S. Congress at the most difficult time in Panama's history when no true democratic institutions exist, when there is no freedom of expression and when the citizens' inalienable basic rights are disregarded."

MUNICIPAL COUNCILS URGED TO CREATE NEW INDUSTRIES

PA241339 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 24 Apr 79 pp 1, A-7 PA

[Excerpts] Minister of Government and Justice Adolfo Ahumada yesterday urged a meeting of municipal councils of the Province of Panama to create new industries that would generate jobs and improve their incomes instead of depending on present taxes and government subsidies. The Panama City Municipality is self-supporting, although it is presently in dire financial straits. Many of the other municipalities of Panama and other provinces depend almost entirely on subsidies from the central government. The meeting, the first of its kind here, was called by the Panama Municipal Council and is dealing with subjects such as municipal participation in regional development, economy, and administrative organization.

LIBERAL PARTY MEMBERS CALL FOR PARTY UNITY

PA241333 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0339 GMT 24 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpts] An important political meeting was held at noon today for the purpose of uniting parties and sectors which are of liberal origin and ideology and which are democratic republican to form a strong and powerful political party made up of men of great knowledge and experience in public administration and political, economic and social representation.

Guillermo Elias Quijano, president for life of the Liberal Party, opened the ceremony with a brief speech referring to the current political situation and to the need to unite in one party around the personality of Roberto Francisco Chiari, a person who commands national respect and prestige, is unmarred in his public life and is also consistent and just in his action.

Immediately afterward, Jorge Ruben Rosas talked about the motives and objectives of the union: A national demand in view of the administrative failure of the process which has ruled the country for the past 10 years and which he blamed for the economic recession in the country, the high percentage of unemployment and the fiscal deterioration.

Finally, Roberto F. Chiari took the floor to express his thanks for the reception in his honor and reiterated his opinion favoring the formation of a great, unified Liberal Party, which would offer an alternative which the country needs at this precarious time. Former President Roberto F. Chiari, bulwark of the Liberal Party, said that he enthusiastically accepts the efforts made by representatives of the liberal family and that he will register, as approved by the Liberal Party National Directorate.

SHAH NEGOTIATING RESIDENCE IN PANAMA

PA250015 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2100 GMT 24 Apr 79 PA

[By Antonio Martinez]

[Excerpts] Colon, Panama, 24 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Muhammad Reza Pahlavi, the deposed shah of Iran, has not yet formally requested residence in Panama, but several of his relatives have already made a number of contacts here with the government in connection with this. Panamanian Government and Justice Minister Adolfo Ahumada today confirmed to this agency that a brother of the deposed monarch had been investigating the possibility.

When asked if Panama would grant residence to the shah, the minister responded that this country had always promoted immigration that entails an increase in investments and jobs. Regarding the new Iranian Government's warnings to several Latin American regimes against receiving the shah, Ahumada said that in this situation Panama will act in a sovereign and independent manner, in accordance with its own interests.

The capital city's newspaper CRITICA affirms today that the shah is planning to buy the tourist island of Contadora, located in Las Perlas Archipelago in the Pacific Ocean, as well as several other properties in western Panama, in the cooler highlands of Chiriqui Province. When asked by this agency, Planning and Economic Policy Minister Gustavo Gonzalez responded here in Colon that the government has been studying the possibility of transferring Contadora Island, which today is administered by the state, to private hands. According to other as yet unconfirmed rumors currently circulating, part of the shah's wealth might be invested in Panama's Cerro Colorado copper project.

RESULTS OF PDP NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN CAPITAL

PA241752 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 24 Apr 79 pp 8, 21 PA

[Communique issued by the Panamanian People's Party on 23 April 1979 in Panama City]

[Excerpts] The third national conference of the People's Party [PDP], the party of the Panamanian Communists, was held in Panama City from 21 to 22 April. It was publicly closed at the newsmen's Union Hall with a speech by Secretary General Ruben Dario Souza in the presence of the participants in the meeting and special guests.

The conference was attended by 136 members representing the country's 9 provinces and the San Blas Intendancy. Comrade Marta Matamoros, member of the party's Central Committee, outstanding communist and representative of the labor class, was unanimously elected president of the conference.

In its debates, the conference bore in mind the domestic situation as well as the growing role in the international field of the forces of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union, the struggle of the international working class and the national liberation movement.

The conference decided to leave in the hands of the party's Politburo the details for the official presentation of the request for registration of the PDP before the electoral tribunal.

[Signed] PD Politburo Secretary General Ruben Dario Souza.

COSTA RICA

CARAZO CANDIDATE LOSES OUT IN PARTY ELECTION

PA250237 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 79 PA

[Text] A meeting of the Unity Party deputies was held last night in Santo Domingo de Heredia to confirm Deputy Aguilar Facio as the party's candidate for presidency of the country's highest body. While the 26 participating deputies waited in suspense, the proposal made by the Calderonist Republic Party that there be rotation on the Board of Directors prevailed.

Gerardo Bolanos of the Unity Party claimed that it is now the turn of the Popular Union [Union Popular] Party or the Christian Democratic Party to head the legislative assembly. At the last minute, and at the request of the deputies of the Calderonist Republic Party, President Carazo accepted Ramon Aguilar as the candidate of the Unity Party, despite the hopes of his choice, Madrigal Nieto.

For his part, the new official party candidate said that dialog with all the political parties represented in the assembly will be the basis of his government. The confirmation of Aguilar Facio as candidate for president of the Assembly was somewhat dampened by the fact that his opponent, Madrigal, had excused himself from attending the elections.

Only the 25 deputies of the Unity Party voted last night for their comrade Leticia Chacon to second Aguilar Facio on the Board of Directors of the Assembly. According to the government legislators, it is the first time in the history of our country that a woman has occupied so high a post.

Bolanos, stating that his group will win in the May elections, said that as vice president of the leading power of the republic, Chacon will elevate the stature of the Costa Rican woman.

CASTILLO ASSURED POST OF LIBERATION PARTY HEAD

PA250232 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Legislators Angel Edmundo Solano and Carlos Manuel Castillo have been fighting over the leadership of the National Liberation Party ever since Hernando Arauz announced that he was definitely withdrawing from the post. Since Dr Castillo had a majority within the party, and especially now since Deputy Solano has also announced his withdrawal as a primary candidate, Castillo has the position assured. According to reports, Castillo Morales will be unanimously elected chief of the Unity Party deputies in May.

GUATEMALA

HAVANA REPORTS GOALS OF NEW GUATEMALAN FRONT

PA241200 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 23 Apr 79 PA

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Representatives of political, labor, peasant, student and professional organizations in Guatemala met recently somewhere in that Central American country to form the Democratic Front Against Repression [Frente Democratico Contra la Represion]. Since the overthrow of the progressive government of Jacobo Arbenz, 70,000 Guatemalans have lost their lives due to repression.

The front's objectives are to denounce at both national and international levels all repressive acts committed in Guatemala against any popular and democratic sector, to identify those directly or indirectly responsible, and to unmask the forms and methods used by the regime and its paramilitary bands to repress the people. The Democratic Front Against Repression also seeks to promote international solidarity on behalf of Guatemalans through denouncements, protests, organizing of solidarity committees and sending of material aid to the victims of the terror institutionalized in that Central American country since the counterrevolutionary coup hatched by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

The groups comprising this coalition of democratic and popular forces will provide counseling and advice to help the victims of repression or their relatives to air their protests. The front will also provide material assistance within their means to the widows and orphans of those persons killed by the army, police and ultrarightist bands which commit their sordid deeds following the orders of the regime in power at the time. The current one is headed by Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia.

The Democratic Front Against Repression meeting convoked by the National Committee of Labor Unity approved a statement charging that, in the Guatemalan capital alone, an average of at least eight tortured bodies are found on public highways every day.

To maintain the privileges of the dominating classes and U.S. imperialism's exploitation in Guatemala, the document added, the tyranny headed by Romeo Lucas Garcia has stopped at nothing and thus far this year more than 600 persons have been killed in that country, most of them murdered by the ultrarightist groups which act openly with the support of the government. The complicity of the Guatemalan regime with these crimes is more than evident. To cite only two cases, Oliverio Castaneda, secretary general of the University Students Association, and Manuel Colom Argueta, foremost leader of the United Revolutionary Front, were killed recently. The first was massacred as dozens of policemen who were guarding the presidential palace in Guatemala City looked on impassively; Colom Argueta was assassinated in Guatemala City during a spectacular operation involving 100 assailants in several vehicles.

According to the Democratic Front against Repression, the military and police forces of Guatemala and paramilitary groups act under the expert orders of Israeli and U.S. instructors who have contributed similarly to the creation of a central intelligence [body]. This body monitors the correspondence that enters and leaves the country and has a list of all democratic citizens. Everytime the police ask the body for background information on a given person, that same person's body, showing signs of torture, is later found in some part of the country.

In such conditions, the struggle of the Guatemalan people against their internal and external oppressors is extremely risky and difficult but does not stop. The statement of the Democratic Front Against Repression calls for the unity of all progressive forces in the country in a common struggle against the pro-imperialist tyranny which pursues in the land of the Quetzal the policy of terror and crime which followed the counterrevolutionary coup of 1954, the work of U.S. imperialism.

STUDENT LEADER SHOT TO DEATH BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS

PA241558 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1521 GMT 24 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Student leader Alberto Hernandez 24, was killed by unidentified individuals here last night, Guatemalan police reported today.

It was reported that Hernandez was shot down as he was walking through the Bethania residential area in the capital's seventh zone by a group of men who speedily fled from the site. Hernandez was president of the Student Association of the Miguel Garcia Granados Coeducational High School and leader of the Coordinator of Secondary Students, it was disclosed. Police reported that they are conducting a search operation to find the student's killers.

NICARAGUA

HIGH-LEVEL MISSION TO GO TO SOUTH KOREA

PA250241 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2200 GMT 24 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 24 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--A high-level Nicaraguan mission is slated to leave today for South Korea, Foreign Ministry sources announced today. The mission's friendship and good will tour had been planned for some time, but it was not finally scheduled to take place until this week.

The group includes Finance Minister Gen Samuel Genie Amaya, Chamber of Deputies Vice President Luis Pallais Debayle, Nicaraguan Ambassador to Japan Maj Gen Julio Gutierrez, National Light and Power Enterprise President Adan Cajina and General Supply Director Maj Gen Gustavo Medina. Neither the mission's return date nor the true objective of the trip has been disclosed, particularly now that the Nicaraguan Government is confronting serious obstacles to obtain financial resources from international credit agencies.

BOMB EXPLODES NEAR NATIONAL PALACE

PA241247 Managua Estacion X in Spanish 0430 GMT 24 Apr 79 PA

[Text] A bomb which exploded in the [word indistinct] of the center of the cathedral caused great alarm at the National Palace this morning. It was a very powerful bomb and was heard many blocks away. The National Palace employees, who had been traumatized by the commando unit of the terrorist Eden Pastora, were very scared and their bosses were forced to let them go home before the scheduled time.

FPN SEEKS UNITY TO OVERTHROW SOMOZA

PA232242 Paris AFP in Spanish 2100 GMT 23 Apr 79 PA

[By Paul Rutler]

[Text] Managua, 23 Apr (AFP)--The National Patriotic Front (FPN), which includes Nicaragua's most radical opposition elements, today called for unity among "all of the country's forces in order to overthrow President Anastasio Somoza's dictatorship."

During a news conference held in Managua, Reinaldo Tefel, one of the FPN leaders, announced that his movement will begin negotiating today with the Broad Opposition Front (FAO), which is made up of the traditional opposition groups, in order to adopt a "plan of common struggle to promote the creation of a democratic unity government."

"Besides, we will have to fight the disastrous effects of the cordoba's devaluation, which constitutes a new and brutal act of aggression by Somoza against the people," he added.

The devaluation of the cordoba by 70 percent on 7 April has led to a 40 percent increase this week in the price of all staples, fuels and public transportation fares.

The FPN also reaffirmed its determination "never to accept any type of compromise with President Anastasio Somoza or any member of his family" and to reject any foreign intervention, whatever it may be. "We are anti-imperialists, but that does not mean we are anticapitalists," Julio Lopez, another FPN leader, noted.

According to observers, the FPN's new initiative is an effort to reconcile all opposition factions in order to overthrow the regime. "We are willing to include all political or ideological persuasions in a future government," Eli Altamirano, another leader declared.

The FPN was created early this year and is supported by the "Group of 12," which is made up of Somoza opponents. It also includes the three factions of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), all the youth movements, the radical and moderate leftwing parties and most of Nicaragua's labor unions.

For its part, the FAO includes the management sector and the traditional anti-Somozist parties, but it represents only 20 percent of the opposition.

Finally, the precarious calm that prevailed 2 days ago throughout the country has been broken by isolated FSLN actions in Matagalpa and in a Managua suburb. In Matagalpa, the army reportedly killed three Sandinists on Sunday. In the capital, two fighters were reportedly shot by the National Guard.

First Opposition Dialog 'Promising'

PA242009 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 24 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The first round of a dialog intended to achieve total opposition unity vis-a-vis Gen Anastasio Somoza's regime was held here yesterday with so-called promising results. The Political Secretariat of the National Patriotic Front (FPN) and the Executive Council of the Broad Opposition Front (FAO) met for several hours in the offices of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, belonging to the latter coalition, in order to draw up a plan of struggle against the Somoza dictatorship.

It was the first meeting between the two opposition groups, which have been fighting for supremacy to guide the antigovernment political movement in this country. The leaders of both groups concur that results were definitely positive. Local conditions were analyzed in order to outline immediate and future strategies to achieve the common goal: the civilian toppling of the Somoza government.

The recent devaluation which enhanced the people's discomfort, the killing of young people and the closure of radio stations and newscasts, according to the opposition, favor those conditions for bringing the struggle to its final conclusion. In keeping with that initial result, everything seems to indicate that the mediation which some FAO leaders had requested from the "National Reflection Committee" which, presided over by Managua Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo, includes university rectors and Nicaraguan social figures and is seeking a peaceful settlement to the abysmal political crisis in Nicaragua.

Despite the optimism aroused by that initial meeting of the two opposition groups, controversial topics which have formerly prevented the unification of the various opposition forces will have to come up in the agenda of the next discussions. The FAO and FPN scheduled a second meeting for next Friday at the Nicaraguan Human Promotion Institute [Instituto Nicaraguense de Promocion Humana--INPRHU].

STUDENTS, MEDICAL WORKERS STAGE PROTESTS

PA241941 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1630 GMT 24 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpts] Managua--LA PRENSA reporter Roberto Sanchez reported, referring to the present situation in Nicaragua, that students have gone on strike and staged demonstrations in Managua along with meetings inside their schools to protest the existing situation in the country, which is affecting the population and especially the youths. They are also protesting the rising cost of living, triggered by the devaluation of the cordoba by the government. In Carazo Department, Sanchez said, transportation was practically at a standstill. Meanwhile, in Managua, students and workers were cramming bus stations waiting for what little transportation was available.

The LA PRENSA reporter also said the Federation of Medical Associations of Nicaragua has called a national medical personnel's day of mourning on 26 April, Thursday, claiming that no guarantees are offered to their professional services presently in the country. They are also protesting the death of doctors Eduardo Selva and Alejandro Davila Bolanos as well as nurse Clotilde de Moreno, who were killed after their capture in Esteli by National Guard patrols.

Meanwhile, referring to the rising cost of living due to the devaluation of the cordoba, Sanchez said that there are many problems arising in the country because of this measure. Although the government has established price controls, Sanchez explained, such controls are merely not functioning as speculation continues throughout the country.

FAMILY TAKES ASYLUM IN VENEZUELAN EMBASSY

PA241805 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1711 GMT 24 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 24 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The family of a Nicaraguan doctor, Sergio Prado Ramirez, yesterday requested political asylum at the Venezuelan Embassy in Managua.

Father of lightweight boxer Hermogenes Prado, Sergio Prado Ramirez had been commenting for the past few months on Nicaragua's political situation in programs carried over Radio Mil and Radio Noticias. His scathing commentaries against Gen Anastasio Somoza's Government soon made him well-known. During the past few weeks, he has written articles for the newspaper EL PUEBLO in Managua. Press circles have speculated that the doctor has gone underground in support of the Sandinist Front (FSLN), whose revolutionary struggle he praised.

VIOLENCE REPORTED, MILITARY PATROLS CONTINUE

PA250404 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0240 GMT 25 Apr 79 PA

[Text] The military are intensely patrolling the capital city's neighborhoods in order to maintain order, peace and tranquility among the citizenry. A number of violent incidents were reported today in several sectors of the capital, but the authorities, displaying a great sense of discipline, managed to restore order. Also, the streets of several outlying neighborhoods were cleaned of the rocks and debris that had been placed there by masked persons to hinder the passage of vehicles.

Five Dead in Clashes

PA241909 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1743 GMT 24 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 24 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--New clashes between rebels and members of the National Guard in the last few hours left a toll of five persons dead in Leon and this capital.

FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA CONTINUES AUSTRIA VISIT

FL242217 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2204 GMT 24 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca today held talks with Austrian President Rudolf Kirchschlaeger and Parliament President Anton Benya. Vienna's daily DIE PRESSE reports that the Cuban minister's visit is part of the normalization of relations between Austria and Cuba. It adds that tomorrow's talks between Malmierca and Pahr will mainly deal with topics such as the nonalined countries summit conference scheduled for next September in Havana and economic matters. Austrian Chief of Government Bruno Kreisky will receive Isidoro Malmierca tomorrow at noon. The Cuban delegation will end its 4-day visit to Austria on Thursday.

AYATOLLAH KHOMEYNI RECEIVES RODRIGUEZ LLOMPART DELEGATION

FL242327 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Ayatollah Khomeyni, from his native city of Qom, has sent greetings and congratulations to the people and Government of Cuba and Councils of State and Ministers President Fidel Castro. Khomeyni received a Cuban delegation headed by Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation, who delivered to Khomeyni a personal message from Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. The message congratulates Khomeyni on the results of the referendum by which the Iranian people reaffirmed their resolute support of the revolutionary process and massively called for eliminating the reactionary and tyrannical monarchy and establishing a republic. Fidel's message also points out that the proclamation of 1 April as Iranian Revolution Day will be a day not only joyfully celebrated by the Iranian people but also by all the world's revolutionary and progressive forces and the nations that are struggling for real independence. The Cuban delegation also had a private talk with Khomeyni concerning Iran's entry in the nonalined movement and bilateral relations between Cuba and Iran, which were broken by the former Reza Shah Pahlavi in 1976.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON TODOR ZHIVKOV'S VISIT

For an apparent text of the joint Cuban-Bulgarian communique on the 7-11 April visit to Cuba of Todor Zhivkov, BCP Central Committee first secretary and chairman of the People's Republic of Bulgaria State Council, published in the Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO, see the Bulgaria section of the 24 April issue of the Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

DELEGATION IN PRAGUE FOR WORLD PEACE COUNCIL MEETING

FL241902 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1815 GMT 24 Apr 79 FL

[Excerpt] A delegation of the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereigrty of Peoples headed by Francisco Astry Rodriguez, secretary of that organization, has arrived in Prague, the Czechoslovak capital, to attend a World Peace Council meeting. Representatives of more than 100 countries and observers of nine international organizations will participate in the meeting, which opens tomorrow.

FURTHER ON CEMA NUCLEAR SAFETY MEETING IN HAVANA

FL241856 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1802 GMT 24 Apr 79 FL

[Text] A radiation safety seminar opened in our capital today within the framework of the CEMA Technical-Scientific Council Meeting.

Dr Jorge Gabilondo, chief of the Cuban delegation to this international seminar, made the opening remarks.

Dr Gabilondo, who is chief of the Nuclear Safety and Control Department of the National Committee for the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy, stressed the importance of the seminar. He said its purpose is to strengthen the scientific and technical qualifications of our cadres and respond to many concerns regarding the peaceful use of nuclear energy--a path our country has undertaken in various areas of the economy. Gabilondo thanked the CEMA specialists for their participation in the seminar, in which 25 reports will be rendered on the organization of national guidelines for assuring radiation safety in nuclear power plants and in the environment.

(B. Burhack), chairman of the CEMA Technical-Scientific Council for Protection Against Radiation and chief of the GDR State Office for Nuclear Safety, and representatives of the USSR, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, the GDR, Hungary, Cuba and the CEMA Secretariat attended the opening session. The seminar is part of scheduled activities within the framework of the CEMA Technical-Scientific Council meeting which opened in Havana yesterday.

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY MINISTER COMMENTS ON BOTTLED GAS SHORTAGES

FL241654 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Apr 79 FL

[Text] The Chemical Industry Ministry has told the population that since February 1979 there have been problems with supplying liquified and bottled gas because of a general repair shutdown at the main plant processing this product. Unforeseen problems at the plant after the repairs had been completed have prevented deliveries from returning to normal at this time. At present, work is being done at the installation to restore service as quickly as possible.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL FORMED

FL241910 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1823 GMT 24 Apr 79 FL

[Text] A Scientific Council has been formed at the Occupational Safety Institute in Havana. The council is composed of high-level technicians of recognized experience. The Scientific Council is a consultative organ which will study and draft recommendations concerning activities of the institute. The council's functions include providing scientific and methodological assistance and analyzing and suggesting policies and research work to be undertaken.

EDUCATION MINISTER CHAIRS MEETING IN SANCTI SPIRITUS

FL241906 Sancti Spiritus Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Apr 79 FL

[Excerpts] Asela de los Santos, member of the PCC Central Committee and minister of education, has chaired a provincial meeting to examine the results of the present school term. The meeting was held at the Camilo Cienfuegos military vocational school in Sancti Spiritus. The minister was welcomed at the school by 2d Lt Juan Brau Cardenas, director of the school, as the military band and honor guard rendered the appropriate honors, and a Pioneer placed the organization's neckerchief on her neck.

The main report, in which the results of the previous 6-month period, reevaluations and the first control report for the second 6-month period were examined, was ready by (Nestor D. Gonzalez), director of the Education Ministry's provincial office.

Pedro Rodriguez Diaz, member of the party provincial committee Executive Bureau, made a speech in which he referred to some aspects not previously discussed that have an impact on production problems, such as the work of methodologists and inspectors, in which some difficulties have been reported; teachers' self-training, in which some deficiencies have been noted; instability of cadres and professors; and class attendance of professors and students, some centers having reported poor attendance. Moreover, since the beginning of the school term, no effort has been made to improve promotions. When the first control meeting was held, it was noted that there were problems dealing with methods and lack of enforcement of rules, control and discipline that resulted in a very low promotion rate. Problems have also been noted in retaining students in the intermediate, technical and professional educational levels.

The closing remarks were made by Asela de los Santos, who stated that the examination was extraordinarily important and added that in comparison to 1976 it shows a quantitative and qualitative jump forward. She stated that despite that, efforts should be made to improve habits and raise the level of requirements and noted that the Education Ministry believes the province has made a very significant progress. Referring to the evaluations, she pointed out that the number of children in fourth grade who do not know how to read is not that big. She said that the success of the seminars to be held in July must be guaranteed. In closing, she warned the province that a greater effort must be made to improve basic studies at the schools.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the education minister laid a floral wreath at the school's Camilo Cienfuegos memorial. Also chairing the meeting were Hipolito Rodriguez Migoyo, member of the provincial party committee and president of provincial People's Government Assembly; Olivia Alvarez, director of general eduation of the Education Ministry and other comrades.

GDR MILITARY OFFICER TOURS CIENFUEGOS PRERECRUIT SCHOOL

FL240134 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0112 GMT 24 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Col William Galvez, chief of the National Patriotic-Military Group, and Lt Gen Guenter Teller, chief of the German Democratic Republic Patriotic-Military Group, [as heard] have made a working visit to the provincial prerecruit training school in Cienfuegos.

The southern prerecruits showed interest in the participation of students in combat training and told the visitors that they are willing to join the Revolutionary Armed Forces to defend the country whenever and wherever necessary.

Lt Gen Guenter Teller expressed gratitude for the warm welcome he and his delegation were given. He also greeted the Jose Marti and GDR Pioneers present at the school. Afterward, Col William Galvez and his entourage toured the classrooms and other installations of the Cienfuegos prerecruit training school, wishing success to the students in building socialism.

GRANMA CALLS FOR GREATER SUGARCANE HARVEST EFFORT

FL241224 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Apr 79 FL

[Text] "Increase the Sugarcane Harvest Offensive" is the title of the front page GRANMA editorial that deals with essential points reached at a recent national sugarcane harvest meeting that was presided over by Fidel. GRANMA states that we have enough sugarcane to have a harvest that is considerably higher than last year's harvest, which was the second largest harvest in all of our history in terms of volume.

GRANMA points out that up to 20 April 1979, 400 million more arrobas [of sugarcane] had been ground, with proportionately high yields, than on the same date in 1978.

After stating that conditions exist to surpass the results of last year's sugarcane harvest, the second largest harvest in all of our history, GRANMA recalls that the national economy--because of the effects of foreign currency, which are known by all, and the need to carry on the development plans by fulfilling all of the pledges made--demand that every last sugarcane be ground and turned into sugar. In its editorial today, the organ of the PCC Central Committee stresses that despite the optimum possibilities and the good work done, difficulties have appeared over the course of the sugarcane harvest that must be faced and resolved.

Among the difficulties listed by GRANMA are those relating to certain spare parts, certain shortages related to mechanized sugarcane loading and a slight decrease in cane-cutter attendance and productivity, especially over the last few weeks. GRANMA states that we are almost in May, when the sugarcane harvest battle will be even more intense because it will have to be combined with the great plantings for the spring [sugarcane crop] and the weeding of sugarcane fields that must be done. GRANMA adds that the situation could get even more complicated at the start of May if there were early rains, with their consequent results.

In its editorial entitled "Increase the Sugarcane Harvest Offensive," the PCC Central Committee organ states that there is a need to act as quickly as possible and in an intelligent and energetic manner. GRANMA adds that our heroic people have a decisive role to play in this battle. A mobilization of new work contingents for the sugarcane areas will be necessary, with a firm resolve to put the maximum number of sugarcane harvesters and loaders into operation. One has to go to the fields determined to grind every single planned sugarcane and load by hand what the loaders are not able to do.

GRANMA concludes by stating that our party calls on all working people, on the political and administrative cadres, the Union of Young Communists, the Central Organization of Cuban Workers and its trade unions, the National Association of Small Farmers, the Federation of Cuban Women, the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, the Youth Labor Army and on all state organizations involved in the sugarcane harvest to make this additional effort that the revolution and the fatherland require. Guarantee a greater harvest in 1980! In a defensive drive achieve a new victory in building socialism!

JAMAICA

FURTHER ON PRIME MINISTER MANLEY'S USSR VISIT

Joint Communique

For Moscow PRAVDA text of the 14 April Soviet-Jamaican joint communique issued at the end of Prime Minister Michael Manley's visit to the USSR, see the Latin America & Caribbean section of the 19 April Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

Manley Statement

FL241640 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Apr 79 p 8 FL

[Text] In a press conference on Monday, April 16, at Jamaica House, Mr Manley made the following statement about, as he put it, "what really happened in the Soviet Union." The statement also refers to what also happened in Hungary:

What Really Happened in the Soviet Union

First and foremost, our entire delegation was given the most warm and cordial welcome, and every discussion proceeded on the basis of respect, with a genuine desire for co-operation, solidarity and friendship. Despite the fact that the president was ill, the Council of Ministers meeting was in progress, and the fact that the leadership of the Eastern European socialist countries had gathered for CEMA talks, our delegation received not only the personal attention of Prime Minister A. Kosygin, but senior members in the leadership of the party and state as well.

We had the opportunity of seeing the tremendous progress and victories achieved by the Soviet people in socialist construction in the short period of 61 years. We were able to meet with the heroic people of Leningrad, who for 900 days and nights during World War Two and at great sacrifice had successfully defended the Soviet Union and the world against Fascism. At no time did any representative of the Soviet Union make one demand of us.

Appreciation

I now turn to the details of what it is we achieved during this visit, but before doing so I want to place on record my profound appreciation to all the members of the delegation, and who by their exemplary behaviour and hard work held high the banners of our country.

At the level of practical economic cooperation, the visit produced some very important results for the alumina industry, trade between Jamaica and the Soviet Union, expansion of our fishing industry, the cement industry, as well as cooperation in economic planning. In the alumina industry, the USSR and Jamaica have signed agreements to execute a long-term contract under which Jamaica will supply 250,000 tons of alumina per year from 1984 onwards.

Market

This agreement is of strategic importance from two points of view. At one level, it enanles Jamaica to gain entry into the Soviet aluminum market, which is the second largest and the fastest growing aluminium market in the world. At the other level, it provides a firm basis for reviving plans for the state-owned 600,000 tons alumina plant proposed for South Manchester. It will be recalled that the South Manchester plant was originally intended as a joint venture between Jamaica, Mexico and Venezuela. The original plan was that Mexico would take 300,000 tons from the plant. Hungary and Algeria had agreed to purchase 150,000 each.

Regrettably, Mexico pulled out, and our calculations did not confirm the viability of a 300,000 plant; hence we still had to search for a market for the remaining 300,000 tons from a 600,000 plant in South Manchester. The agreement with the Soviet Union now means that we have firm agreements for us to supply 550,000 tons and therefore, the plans for constructing a nationally owned alumina plant can once again be accelerated. As a clear indication of their firm commitment in the alumina venture, the Soviet Union has agreed to purchase a minimum of 50,000 tons of alumina a year from us beginning next year and will continue until the long-term contract takes effect in 1984.

Tribute

I would like, at this stage, to pay the sincere tribute, on behalf of the government and people of Jamaica, to Hungary and Algeria for their principled support of Jamaica in holding their contracts while we continued to seek ways and means to achieve viability of the South Manchester plant.

Arising from the long-term contract with the Soviet Union, I sent the minister of mining, Hon Horace Clarke, along with the executive director of the Jamaica Bauxite Institute, Dr Carlton Davis, and the managing director of Jamaica Bauxite Mining, Dr Vin Lawrence, to Hungary for further negotiations with the Hungarians on the construction of the South Manchester plant.

Minister Clarke met with Hungary's deputy prime minister, Mr Joszef Marjai, who also has responsibility for foreign trade. A key result of this visit is the agreement by Hungary to start purchasing 150,000 tons of alumina a year commencing in 1980. Hence, Jamaica now has agreements to sell an additional 200,000 tons a year in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983. This equals approximately U.S. $40 million. This quantity, plus the additional 350,000 tons off-take from 1984 onwards, means that he would be supplying the above-mentioned grand total of 550,000 tons, which is approximately U.S. $110 million.

Follow-Up

It was agreed that a follow-up meeting would be held in Jamaica in about three weeks to finalize details prior to the commencement of engineering works for the South Manchester plant.

The trade administrator, who was also in Hungary with Minister Clarke, took the opportunity to discuss trade with officials of the Foreign Trade Bank and the Ministery of Foreign Trade. Arising out of these discussions, eleven categories of items were identified for trade between the two countries commencing in 1980, where feasible in 1979. The level of trade envisaged and the payment mechanism are critical factors in the activation of the alumina project.

Quite separately the trade negotiations between the Soviet Union and Jamaica were conducted on the basis of two principles: The need to ensure a balance of mutual advantage and, secondly, on the basis of using trade as an important aspect of fostering economic growth and development.

Our negotiators identified a range of items which Jamaica can purchase from the Soviet Union, and they have confirmed their capability to supply these items. The items are mainly developmental goods such as machinery, equipment, raw materials and intermediate or semi-finished goods which would have had to be procured from whichever source or sources if the productive process in certain critical sectors is to be sustained.

Protocol

It has also been agreed that the trade will be conducted in free, convertible currency and on the basis of normal commercial practice.

A number of the items identified are accommodation under the machinery and equipment protocol signed by the two countries in 1977. This protocol provides fairly liberal credit terms. In order to implement the trade agreement, the necessary relationships have been established between the Bank of Jamaica and the Bank of Foreign Trade of the USSR.

It will be recalled that prior to the visit, discussions pertaining to the identification of items in trade between the two countries were held with private sector groups, and I now wish to confirm that follow-up discussions with these private sector groups will take place shortly on this question in order to permit the economy to procure maximum benefits from this agreement.

Fishing

In the area of fishing, the agreement that was signed provides a long-term plan for developing our fishing industry. Further specific contracts are to be negotiated in order to implement the agreement. However, in general terms, the Soviet Union will assist us in developing our fishing industry at all levels, including a study of the stock of fish and other marine products near the Jamaican coast. Also, fishermen from both countries will fish off Jamaica's coast, and the two countries will set up a joint company for fishing and marketing fish produce.

Cement

As far as the cement industry is concerned, the agreement provides for Soviet assistance in conducting feasibility and engineering studies for a second cement plant at Esher in Hanover. These studies will complement the Jamaican Government market study which is now going on. The engineering study should be completed between 12 and 18 months, and Jamaican professionals will also be involved.

It is obvious that all these agreements represent tangible expressions of economic cooperation between Jamaica and the Soviet Union; however, they should not be regarded as a kind of salvation which by themselves are the answers to all our problems. They represent assistance for which we must be appreciative. Our salvation, however, requires hard work, discipline and patriotic commitment to the national struggle.

Conclusion

Having been to the Soviet Union, having met with some of the Soviet leaders and the workers, I want to join with our most celebrated poet. Claude McKay, and our first national hero, Marcus Garvey, placing on record my profound appreciation for the positive contribution of the first socialist revolution and the heroic Soviet people to the progress of humanity. In closing, I want now to repeat what I said in 1977 on behalf of the government and people of Jamaica on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the great October Revolution.

"Each country will choose a path consistent with its own objective realities, but to the extent that all people aspire towards real development, aspire towards a life of dignity, a world in which peace and progress reign, to the same extent the practical example manifested in the Soviet experience is beneficial to all mankind and particularly underdeveloped countries such as ours."

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

ARMED FORCES SECRETARY CONFIRMS ARREST OF FOREIGNERS

PA201440 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0321 GMT 20 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 19 Apr (EFE)--Maj Gen Rafael Adriano Valdez Hilario, armed forces secretary of state, today confirmed the arrest of five foreigners sailing a boat in Dominican territorial waters, but he categorically denied that it was an attempted guerrilla invasion. He also denied that the men aboard the boat are fishermen.

The men under arrest, two North Americans, two Englishmen and a Cuban, were identified as Tom Facio, Willy Smith, Tomas Casch, Hanch Davis and Conrado J. Pereyra. None had passports or identification papers.

Major General Valdez said that they found in the boat two machineguns and other arms, ammunition clips, a Bengal light pistol, a plastic bag of marihuana, and paper to roll cigarettes.

The boat was captured Tuesday night near Cabo Rojo, 350 km southwest of the Dominican Republic.

The crew told the Dominican authorities that they sailed on 8 April from Bimini Island for Curacao, where they were to deliver the 42-foot boat Pricasta, sailing under a British flag, to a person they did not know. Afterward, they were to fly back to the Bahamas.

Dominican military authorities, who from the beginning have not believed that these men are fishermen, as they had originally claimed, are continuing the investigation, which will be made public once completed.

PERU

ASSEMBLY COMPLETES CONSTITUTION CHAPTER ON LABOR

PA240422 Paris AFP in Spanish 0336 GMT 24 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 23 Apr (AFP)--The National Constituent Assembly tonight approved the chapter on labor, the "principal source of wealth," of the constitution, which it expects to complete by May. The assembly wrote into the constitution the principal conquests of the workers, such as the right to strike, the right to form unions without prior authorization and a maximum 8-hour work day. It also established the so-called family wage, the protection of the working mother, sanitary and safe conditions on the job, job stability and the periodic readjustment of pensions for retired government and private workers.

The assembly also incorporated into the constitution the right of the workers to share in the management and profits of the companies they serve, in the ownership of which they would also participate when the nature of the company does not prevent it. Another of the innovations of the document is the recognition of the right to form unions and the right of state workers to strike, which had been denied to all state employees with the exception of teachers.